



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
9301 CHAPEK ROAD
FORT BELVOIR VA 22060-5527

June 20, 2018

SAAA-LS

Ramya Krishnan
Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University
314 Low Library
535 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027
Sent via email: ramya.krishnan@knightcolumbia.org

Dear Ms. Krishnan:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated December 13, 2017. Your request was assigned our office tracking number FA-18-0048. You are seeking the following:

1. All non-disclosure agreements and other agreements, including templates or standard forms of such agreements, imposing prepublication-review obligations on agency and/or former agency employees;
2. All documents relating to administrative appeals filed from prepublication-review determinations, including but not limited to:
 - a. administrative appeals
 - b. any correspondence or back-and-forth between an agency and an individual who filed an administrative appeals
 - c. final decisions with respect to administrative appeals
3. All documents relating to any form of sanction imposed or considered for Imposition, on agency and/or former agency employees for failure to comply with their prepublication-review obligations.

Under the FOIA, a government agency is required to make a "good faith effort to conduct a search" 5 USC 552(a)(3)(A). Our office requested a records search from the Office, Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA). OCPA conducted a search and review for any records responsive to your FOIA request; however, this search failed to yield responsive records. We have determined this search was reasonable. See *Duenas Iturralde v. Comptroller of the Currency*, 315 F.3d 311, 3154 (D.C. Cir. 2003).

For any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you have the right to contact the Army FOIA Public Liaison Officer, Alecia Bolling, by email at

us.army.hqda-oaa-ahs.mbx.rmda-foia-public-liaison@mail.mil or by phone at (703) 428-6238. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the national Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: NARA-OGIS, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov, telephone number (202) 741-5770 toll free at (877) 684-6448 or by facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

This letter constitutes a “no record” determination under the FOIA. This determination has been made on behalf of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, who has designated that this office will act as the Initial Denial Authority for records maintained by the Office of the Secretary of the Army and its serviced activities. You have the right to file an administrative appeal with the Office of the Army General Counsel within ninety (90) calendar days. See 32 C.F.R. § 518.17(c). Their mailing address is:

Department of the Army
Office of the General Counsel
104 Army Pentagon, Room 2E724
Washington, D.C. 20310

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact this office at (703) 428-6238 or usarmy.belvoir.hqda-oaa-rpa.mbx.oaa-cals-mailbox-foia@mail.mil. In all correspondence please refer to FOIA number FA-18-0048.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul V. DeAgostino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul V. DeAgostino
Senior Counsel